

1960

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

499

increasing burden to the cost of financing our Government obligations.

The United States Savings and Loan League is entitled to much credit for its statesmanlike stand on this important issue.

Congress has a very definite responsibility in this field and I sincerely hope we can get legislative action that will permit our Government to finance its obligations on a long-term basis and eliminate the 4¼-percent limit on interest rates that may be charged on long-term bonds.

I present the resolution and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD and referred to the appropriate committee.

There being no objection, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Finance and ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PRESERVING A SOUND AMERICAN DOLLAR

During the past year the present administration and many Members of the Congress have intensified their efforts to preserve the integrity of the American dollar. Their insistence on fiscal responsibility on the part of the Federal Government was a primary factor in making a balanced Federal budget for the fiscal year 1960 a confident expectation. The United States Savings and Loan League commends the President and these Members of Congress for their unwavering efforts to improve the status of the American dollar abroad and to preserve its buying power at home.

The league recognizes that the management of the public debt is closely related to the battle for a stable dollar; it also recognizes that such management is a particularly serious problem to the Treasury in a period of rising demand for credit from all sectors of the economy. The league urges upon its member savings and loan institutions continued active assistance to the U.S. Treasury by participation in the sale of savings bonds, through which many thousands of persons are started on the path to thrift.

It is obvious that the present 4¼-percent interest rate ceiling on long-term marketable Treasury obligations should be eliminated. This limitation has not prevented interest rates from rising, nor has it prevented the Treasury from paying more than 4¼ percent for money. On the contrary, the ceiling has the unfortunate effect at the present time of forcing the Treasury to concentrate its bond offerings in maturities under 5 years, has imposed an abnormal pressure on the short-term securities market, and has forced the Treasury into an unprecedented competition with thrift institutions which seems likely to result in a decrease in funds available for home mortgage loans next year.

The league recognizes that earlier in the decade of the 1950's—before the 4¼-percent ceiling became a barrier—the Treasury did not move frequently and decisively toward placing more of the debt on a long-term basis. Its policy of continually refunding on a short-term basis contributed to the present difficult situation the Treasury now faces. Fortunately, the Treasury now gives every indication of being wise and courageous enough to pursue a policy of long-term financing.

The U.S. Savings and Loan League urges that the 86th Congress, when it reconvenes in January, promptly enact legislation raising the present ceiling on long-term Treasury obligations.

DISASTER RELIEF BY A "GREAT WHITE FLEET"—COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. AIKEN. Mr. President, the whole free world was delighted with the enthusiastic reception which the President received on his visit to other countries last month. Nothing has done more than has this visit to promote good will and friendship among the nations. The reception accorded President Eisenhower on his trip proved dramatically that a just and lasting peace is uppermost in the minds of the people everywhere.

While the results of the President's trip abroad were indeed momentous, other ways to implement our efforts for world peace can be effective, and can be carried out with comparatively little cost.

One project which would have very great value is the sending of a fleet, without guns, to carry medical supplies, food, clothing, and other emergency assistance to the victims of disaster in near and far parts of the world.

On July 21 of last year, I joined with the senior Senator from Minnesota [Mr. HUMPHREY] in submitting Senate Concurrent Resolution 66, urging the President to provide for the establishment of a Great White Fleet to carry emergency assistance to people stricken by famine, disease, earthquakes, floods, or other disasters.

Subsequently, 31 other Members of the Senate became cosponsors of the resolution. The same resolution was offered in the House by Representative BATES, of Massachusetts, and Representative EDMONDSON, of Oklahoma.

The effect of the submission of the resolution was not only gratifying, but also rather startling. I received thousands of letters from people in every State, as well as many mailed on shipboard and from foreign countries, urging the establishment of this mercy fleet, and offering moral and material support for this purpose. In fact, I have had to return to the writers nearly \$1,000 which they wanted to contribute to the cause.

Much of the credit for this outstanding response was due to an article and endorsement by Life magazine.

I had hoped that the administration would take the lead in pushing this project, without further urging by the Congress.

The very fact that our Nation would be prepared to cope with disaster wherever it might occur would give hope and encouragement to people everywhere.

We already have the necessary ships, lying idle; and it is my firm belief that the expenditure of \$5 million in establishing such a Great White Fleet would make a greater contribution to understanding among nations and the establishment of a lasting peace than an additional \$5 billion spent for instruments of destruction.

Since several months have gone by, and since there appears to be no move on the part of the executive branch to take any further steps toward the establishment of the Great White Fleet, I am turning over today to the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee

the several thousand communications which I have received in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 66; and I urge that the Senate go on record as favoring this proposal.

I submit the communications, and ask that they be referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BRIDGES. Mr. President, will the Senator from Vermont yield?

Mr. AIKEN. I yield.

Mr. BRIDGES. Would it be possible and also very practical to take the \$5 million from perhaps the foreign-aid funds which have not already been specifically committed? I think the idea of such disaster relief is a very worthy one, as a positive contribution to worldwide understanding and good will.

Mr. AIKEN. I would be delighted to select a part of the foreign-aid funds from which the \$5 million could be deleted.

Mr. BRIDGES. I think that could be done.

Mr. AIKEN. At the time when the concurrent resolution was submitted, I believe the White House was supporting the idea. However, I have heard nothing further from it lately, and I do not know what has happened.

Mr. BRIDGES. I thought I should bring it to the attention of the Senator. It is a worthy objective, and I think it is a very practical approach. Certainly, it would be wise to consider that approach once a year to see what would happen. We have certainly spent money on less worthy projects, and we have sometimes obtained rather small results.

Mr. AIKEN. The Senator from New Hampshire knows, of course, he will have an opportunity to review these reports, because these communications are being referred to the Committee on Armed Services, of which the Senator from New Hampshire is a high ranking member.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

CONTINUANCE OF STUDY OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. FULBRIGHT. Mr. President, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, I report an original resolution authorizing a continuing study of U.S. foreign policy, and I submit a report (No. 1027) thereon.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The report will be received and printed; and, under the rule, the resolution will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

The resolution (S. Res. 250) was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration, as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on Foreign Relations, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized under sections 134(a) and 136 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, and in accordance with its jurisdiction specified by rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate,